



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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CONTACT:  
MICHELLE MOWERY JOHNSON  
615-313-4707 (OFFICE)  
615-272-0845 (PAGER)

## **FOOD STAMP PARTICIPATION ON THE RISE IN TENNESSEE** *NEARLY \$70 MILLION IN BENEFITS ISSUED IN JUNE*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The number of families seeking assistance putting food on the table rose slightly in Tennessee from May to June. There are currently 358,000 households comprising 820,000 individuals participating in the Food Stamp Program. This is up from 351,000 households in May.

Figures from the United States Department of Agriculture indicate that the number of households relying on the Food Stamp Program has risen steadily nationwide since the summer of 2001. Preliminary data from the USDA shows that more than 10.3 million families are on the program. (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fsmonthly.htm>)

Food Stamp Program benefits are 100 percent federally funded through the USDA and administered by the Department of Human Services. The program provides nutritional assistance benefits to low income children and families.

Outreach and education efforts on the part of the Department of Human Services and its partners have made many potentially eligible people aware of the program. The improving economy has not yet impacted Food Stamp participation levels.

Nearly \$70 million in Food Stamp benefits were issued in Tennessee last month, compared with \$67 million in May. Nationally, more than \$2 billion in benefits are issued to families each month.

For the last state fiscal year, the average household size in Tennessee was 2.3 persons, and the average household monthly benefit was \$172.

For more information on the Food Stamp program and to view a county by county breakdown of Food Stamp participation and issuance, visit the Department of Human Services website at: <http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/fs-participation.htm>

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CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR  
400 DEADERICK STREET  
NASHVILLE, TN 37248  
615.313.4700